

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to be in the form as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of recording information onto a recording medium (2) having at least one recording track divided into logic blocks (45); wherein a predetermined part of the recording medium is reserved as a spare recording area (3); wherein the information file to be recorded is divided into data packets; and wherein a file writing session comprises the steps of:

- a) receiving a data packet to be recorded into a buffer and recording said a data packet in a block of the recording medium (2) in a block writing session;
- b) examining whether said block is a defective block (45*);
- c) storing said data packet in an auxiliary memory (20) that has faster access times than the buffer in an auxiliary writing session if said block appears to be a defective block (45*);
- d) repeating the steps (a) through (c) for all the data packets in the information file;
- e) subsequently, in a substitute writing session, copying the data packets stored in the auxiliary memory (20) to said spare recording area (3) of the recording medium (2).

Claim 2 (original): A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the step (e) directly follows the step (d).

Claim 3 (original): A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a plurality of information files are recorded on the recording medium (2), the steps (a) through (d) being carried out for each file, after which the substitute writing session of the step (e) is carried out for all the files.

Claim 4 (original): A method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the substitute writing session of the step (e) is carried out in response to the receipt of a command to remove the recording medium (2) from the recording apparatus (1) or in response to the receipt of a command to turnoff the recording apparatus (1).

Claim 5 (previously presented): A recording medium (2) having at least one recording track divided into logic blocks (45);

wherein a predetermined part of the recording medium has been reserved as a spare recording area (3);

wherein data packets have been recorded in respective blocks (45) of the recording medium (2);
and

wherein the spare recording area (3) contains substitute recordings of data packets which correspond to defective blocks (45*) of the recording medium, as well as a table (M (B)) of bookkeeping data, recorded by means of a method as claimed in any one of the Claim 1.

Claim 6 (original): A recording medium (2) as claimed in Claim 5, characterized in that the recording medium is a tape, said spare recording area (3) of the tape (2) being preferably situated at the beginning of the tape.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A method of reading information from a recording medium (2) as claimed in Claim 5, comprising the following steps:

- a) copying the data packets stored in the spare recording area (3) of the recording medium (2), including the bookkeeping data (M (B)), to an auxiliary memory (20) in a preparatory session;
- b) examining whether the block address of a block to be read from the recording medium appears in a substitution table comprising bookkeeping data (M (B));
- c) reading the data in the block to be read (45) if in the step (b) said block address (B) is found not to appear in said substitution table, and supplying the data thus read to an output(21), but if in the step (b) said block address (B) is found to appear in said substitution table, reading substitute data from the section having the start address (M (B)) in said auxiliary memory (20) and presenting the read substitute data to the output(21) ;
- d) repeating the steps (b)- (c) for all the blocks of a file(f).

Claim 8 (currently amended): A recording apparatus (1) for recording information on a recording medium (2) having at least one recording track divided into logic blocks (45), comprising:

a control unit (10) having an input (11) for receiving an information signal (S)-to be recorded into a buffer;

write means (4) for writing on the recording medium (2);
auxiliary memory means (20) having faster access times than the buffer being associated with the control unit (10);
wherein the control unit (10) is adapted to record (12) a data packet in a block of the recording medium (2) or, if said block is found to be a defective block (45*), to store said data packet in a section of the auxiliary memory (20); and
wherein the control unit (10) is adapted to copy any data packets stored in the auxiliary memory (20) to a predetermined spare recording area (3) of the recording medium (2) when all the data packets of an information file have been recorded.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A recording apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, ~~further including buffer memory means (13, 13')~~; wherein the control unit (10) is adapted to store each data packet recorded (12) in a block (45) of the recording medium (2) also in the buffer ~~memory (13, 13')~~, and to copy (15) said data packet from the buffer ~~memory (13, 13')~~ to the auxiliary memory (20) if the relevant block is found to be a defective block (45*).

Claim 10 (previously presented): A recording apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the control unit (10) is adapted to also store bookkeeping data (M(B)) in the auxiliary memory (20), which bookkeeping data defines a relationship between block numbers (B) of defective blocks (45*) and start addresses (M) of sections in the auxiliary memory (20) where data packets have been stored temporarily.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A recording apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the control unit (10) is adapted to copy (16) any data packets stored in the auxiliary memory (20) to the predetermined spare recording area (3) of the recording medium (2) only when a command is received to enable ejection of or to eject the recording medium (2), or when a command is received to turn off the apparatus (1).

Claim 12 (original): A read apparatus for reading information from a recording medium (2) having at least one recording track divided into logic blocks (45) and having a spare recording area (3), comprising:

a control unit (10) having an output (21) for outputting an information signal read (Q);
read means (4) for reading the recording medium (2);
auxiliary memory means (20) associated with the control unit (10);
wherein the control unit (10) is adapted to initially copy data packets, including bookkeeping data (M(B)), stored in the spare recording area (3) of the recording medium (2) to the auxiliary memory (20);
wherein the control unit (10) is adapted to examine whether the block address (B) of a block to be read from the recording medium (2) appears in a substitution table comprising the bookkeeping data (M(B));
wherein the control unit (10) is further adapted to read the data from a block (45) and supply (18) said data to the output (18) if a block address (B) of said block does not appear in said substitution table, and to read substitute data from the section having start address (M(B)) from said auxiliary memory (20) and supply (19) said substitute data to the output (21) if the block address (B) is found to appear in said substitution table.

Claim 13 (new): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 12, wherein a plurality of information files are read from on the recording medium.

Claim 14 (new): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 12, wherein a substitute reading session is carried out in response to the receipt of a command to remove the recording medium from the read apparatus.

Claim 15 (new): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the spare recording area contains substitute recordings of data packets which correspond to defective blocks on the recording medium, as well as a table (M (B)) of bookkeeping data.

Claim 16 (new): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the recording medium is a tape, and said spare recording area of the tape being situated at the beginning of the tape.

Claim 17 (new): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the control unit is adapted to read each data packet recorded in a block of the recording medium and also place the packet into

a buffer and to copy said data packet from the buffer to the auxiliary memory means if the block is found to be a defective block

Claim 18 (new): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the control unit is adapted to also store bookkeeping data (M(B)) in the auxiliary memory means, which bookkeeping data defines a relationship between block numbers of defective blocks and start addresses of sections in the auxiliary memory where data packets have been stored.